

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MARCH 25, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2019-0091
1010 W 26th Street

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1938 multi-family residence.

ARCHITECTURE

The existing structure is a two-story Colonial Revival house with stone veneer, covered porch, hipped shingled roof, and 6:6 windows. The house is a symmetrical massed-plan design with an added carport at the main façade and a second-floor rear addition. It was converted from a single-family residence to multi-family rental property during the 1950s.

RESEARCH

The building at 1010 W. 26th Street was constructed by S. Raymond and Gladys Brooks on the site of an earlier single-story house in 1938. Brooks was a journalist with the American Publishing Company and reported for the Austin Statesman during the five years they occupied the home. According to the Statesman, the Brooks family moved from 1010 W. 26th to West Austin in 1942.

By 1944, the house was occupied by Walter N. and Florence White. White was an engineer and hydrologist who worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior before retiring in 1947 to work for the Texas Board of Water Engineers, and, by 1952, as a private construction consultant. In a 1948 news article documenting his retirement and subsequent commendation by the Department of the Interior, White was noted as a leading expert in his field; under his direction, Texas was recognized as “the most active and progressive groundwater district in the nation.”

By 1951, White’s son Richard lived in the house and rented part of it to tenants. In 1953, the White family was cited for nonpayment of property taxes and left Austin thereafter; the house was sold and divided into rental units to accommodate the growing postwar student market. Fraternity houses and other multifamily buildings were constructed on either side of 1010 W. 26th, and various short-term renters, mostly students and University employees, occupied the house from the late 1950s onward.

STAFF COMMENTS

The property at 1010 W. 26th Street is included in the 1984 Comprehensive Historic Resource Survey. There was no priority for research noted in the survey.

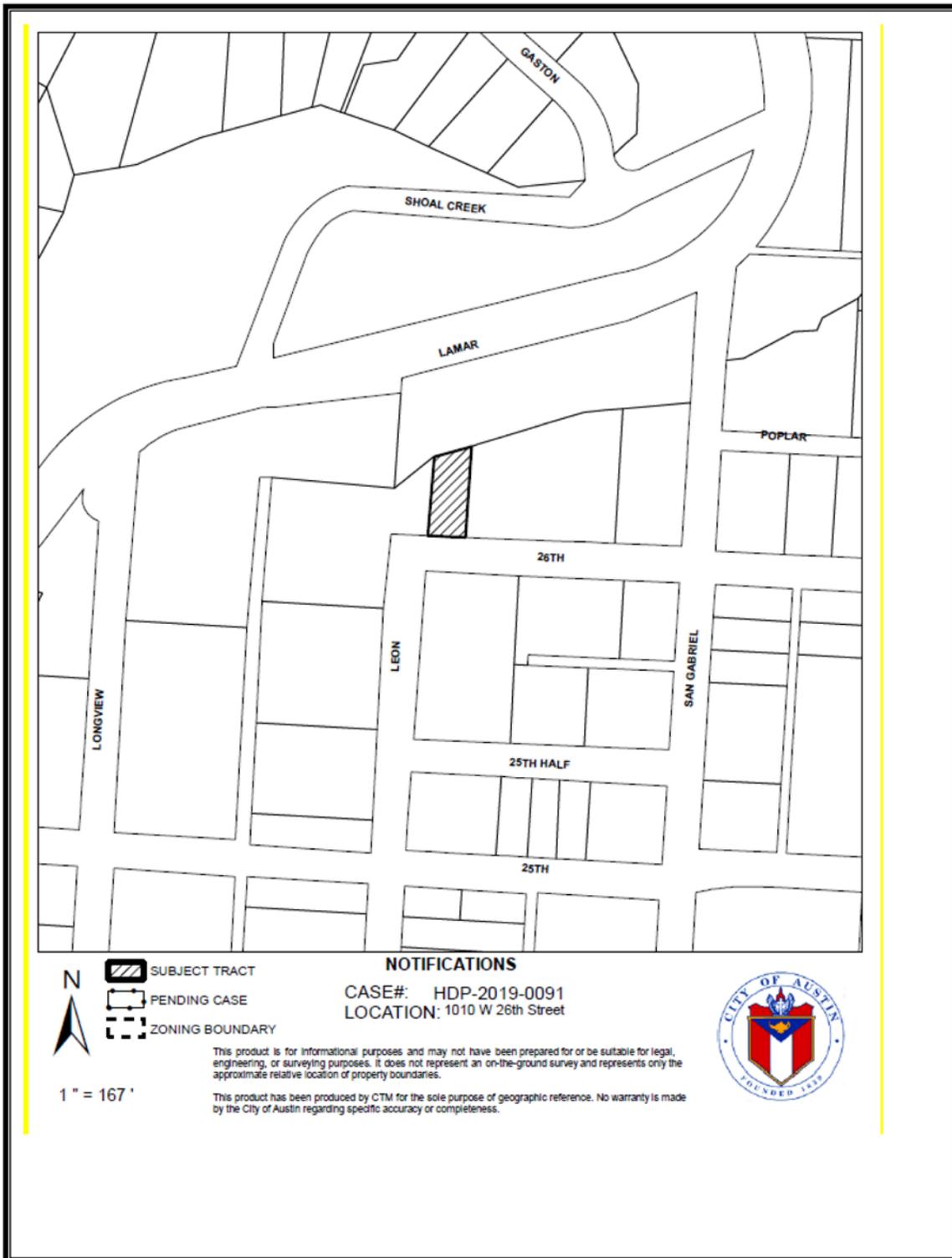
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the permit upon receipt of a City of Austin Documentation Package. Original owner Raymond Brooks did not live in the home long enough to demonstrate significance, and his longer-term home on San Pedro Street was approved for demolition in 2019. Though Walter N. White’s scientific contributions to the city and state are important, the majority of his tenancy in the house during the period of significance occurred after his retirement, and he lived there for less than ten years. While the house retains some material integrity, its form has been modified and its setting drastically altered due to large-scale multifamily construction to either side of the property.

The City of Austin Documentation Package requirements are as follows:

1. 8" x 10" photos of each elevation of every structure being demolished. Photos are to be printed on photographic paper. Please label the back of each photo in pencil with the date of the photograph, the address of the structure, and the directional elevation (north, south, east, west).
2. A dimensioned site plan survey of the property.
3. A dimensioned sketch of the floor plan (requested, but not required)
4. The occupancy history. This can be printed from the .pdf of this staff report located on the Boards and Commissions webpage:
http://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/31_1.htm

LOCATION MAP





OCCUPANCY HISTORY
1010 W. 26th Street
Austin History Center
By: City Historic Preservation Office

- 1992 Unit A: Donald A. Seagraves, renter
Note: the directory listing indicates that Donald A. Seagraves was a new resident.
- Unit B: Vacant
- Unit C: Vacant
- Unit D: Oscar P. Saenz, renter
No occupation listed.
- 1985-86 Apartments
Note: No occupants are listed for this directory entry.
- 1981 Apartments
Note: No occupants are listed for this directory entry.
- 1977 Apartments
- Unit 1A: No return
- Unit 2A: Tom Person, renter
No occupation listed
- Unit 2B: Nancy Kinzler, renter
Student
- Rear: Oscar Saenz, renter
Draftsman, University of Texas

- 1973 Oscar R. Saenz, renter
Draftsman, University of Texas
Note: the directory listing indicates that Oscar R. Saenz was a new resident.
- Unit A: Christine Coyne, renter
Saleswoman, Sommers Rexall Drug
Note: The directory listing indicates that Christine Coyne was a new resident.
- Unit B: James F. and Martha M. Johnson, renters
Teaching assistant, University of Texas
Note: The directory listing indicates that the Johnsons were new residents.
- Unit C: Jaime Fernandez, renter
No occupation listed
Note: The directory listing indicates that Jaime Fernandez was a new resident.
- 1968 No return
- 1965 Royce Frame, renter
Student
- 1962 Mrs. Elsie J. Foster, renter
Wid. William J. Foster
Saleswoman, Patterson and Jones
- 1959 John LaShelle, renter
No occupation listed
- 1955 Minnie Leatherman, owner
Furnished rooms, 604 W. 15th and 1010 W. 26th Streets
Note: Minnie Leatherman is also listed as a resident of 7835 Burnet Rd.
- 1952 Walter N. and Florence W. White, owners
White, Greyton, & Barnes Construction, groundwater hydrologists, 307 W. 12th
- 1949 Walter N. and Florence W. White, owners
Engineer, State Board of Water Engineers
- 1947 Walter N. and Florence W. White, owners
Engineer, US Geological Survey
- 1944 Walter N. and Florence W. White, owners
Senior engineer, US Geological Survey, Ground Water Division
- 1941 S. Raymond and Gladys Brooks, owners
Reporter, American Statesman
- 1939 S. R. and Gladys Brooks, owners
Correspondent, American Publishing Co.

Austin Man To Get Citation For His Groundwater Work

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28.—(Spl) Walter N. White, 302 West 15th Street, Austin, one of the nation's leading experts in groundwater supplies, will receive a citation from the Department of Interior soon for his more than 37 years of distinguished service and outstanding contribution.

White, who is now past 70 years of age, is senior hydraulic engineer for the Texas Board of Water Engineers since he retired from federal service in 1947.

His name, and that of 182 other long-term employes of the Department of Interior, was unveiled this week on an honor roll in the lobby of the Interior Building with a formal ceremony.

The exact citation which is now on its way to the geological survey office in Austin will be presented to White in the near future.

It commends him for a "prodigious amount of work of exceptional quality."

White's ability as an engineer, administrator, and writer is praised. He is especially cited for his leadership in winning contracts in Texas which made the groundwater work more effective.

Joining the Interior Department in 1904, White spent a year in California, then returned to Stamford University for his degree and came back to the department in 1911. He worked in western states and in Washington.

His predictions for finding water supplies for irrigation were found to be highly accurate when they were later developed. He introduced a method for finding water supplies in arid lands by studying the plant discharge and evaporation. This method has been widely adopted.

In 1929, White was placed in charge of the Texas district groundwater division for the Department of Interior. His work in planning, developing and directing the investigations of groundwater resources throughout the state were so successful that the Texas district became widely noted as the most active and progressive groundwater district in the nation.

White has written many papers and reports on groundwater resources and directed a staff in report writing too.

It will not be the first commendation he has received. In 1946, he was highly commended by General

Jonathan M. Wainwright for his energetic cooperation in developing water supplies for the Army in Texas. His predictions of groundwater resources were used by the War Department in determining where Army installations and war industries would be located.

*Walter N. White's
accomplishments as a
groundwater researcher and
planner were nationally
honored at his retirement.*

*Austin-American Statesman,
Aug. 29, 1948.*

PERMIT HISTORY

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE AUSTIN, TEXAS

No. 6895

M. Job # C-38-628-E Address 1010 West 26th St

Plumber WARDEN Size of Tap 3/4" Date 3-9-38

"Stub"

Foreman's Report

Date of Connection 3-9-38
 Size of Tap Made 3/4"
 Size Service Made "
 Size Main Tapped 6"
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 13'
 From F-Prop. Line to Curb Cock 20'
 Location of Meter
 Type of Box Lock
 Depth of Main in St. 3'
 Depth of Service Line 2'
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 27'
 Checked by Engr. Dept. 3-17-38

| No. Fittings | Size |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Curb Cock 3/4" |
| | Elbow |
| | St. Elbow |
| | Bushing |
| | Reducer 1/2" COPPER |
| | 29' Pipe 1/2" COPPER |
| | Lead Comp. |
| | Nipples 3/4" C.I. |
| 1 | Union 3/4" COPPER |
| 1 | Plug 3/4" COPPER |
| | Tee |
| | Stop |
| 1 | Box |
| 1 | Lid |
| | Valves |

Req. No. 44225-3300-12287-12367

Foreman's Signature

Brewster

INDEXED

Florence W. White & Walter M. White
 1010 West 26th St.
 28 and W. 9' of 29
 48 - - -

Harwood Addition
 Addition to garage

28631 1-7-46 \$300.00

Owner

None

